

SENATE RESOLUTION 18

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Dr. John G. Corry and the John G. Corry Awards Banquet, named and founded in his honor for his many exemplary accomplishments and achievements.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those citizens who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the John G. Corry Scholarship Award is given to recognize the exemplary leadership and untiring commitment of Dr. John G. Corry, to honor God and the ideals of the National Black Methodists for Church Renewal, to embolden the church's present leadership, and to encourage our youth to excel. Dr. John G. Corry is being honored at the 2005 John G. Corry Awards Banquet for his numerous accomplishments and achievements that led to the conception of this fine scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, fourteen years ago the Tennessee Caucus of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) felt the need to encourage and support young persons seeking intellectual and spiritual growth; the determination was made to financially assist such students in their pursuit of higher education. This project took on the form of a scholarship appeal to all African American Churches, which culminated in a banquet to honor and celebrate the achievements of scholarship students from respective congregations in the Tennessee Conference; and

WHEREAS, the John G. Corry Scholarship Awards Banquet cultivates the following ideals: Congregational Development; Leadership Development; Black Family Life Concerns; the Enlistment, Support, and Spiritual Sustaining of Black Scholars; and the Advocacy for Social Justice, Fairness, and the Elimination of Racism; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the extraordinary man whose visions and actions inspired the establishment of this exceptional scholarship program be honored; a most noteworthy role-model, Dr. John G. Corry provides motivation for many young individuals to strive for excellence due to his noble life's example and his leadership; and

WHEREAS, an advocate of learning, Dr. Corry has received an extensive education, including his Bachelor of Arts degree from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina; a Master of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia; a Doctor of Ministry degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School; and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Madison, Tennessee, Dr. Corry is an ordained minister, attorney, writer, teacher, and lecturer who serves as Pastor of The Braden United Methodist Church. At Meharry Medical College, he diligently serves as Chaplain and Director of College Counseling Services, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Ethics, and an Instructor of Dental Jurisprudence and Ethics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corry's illustrious tenure in the Nashville community includes service as Adjunct Instructor of Field Education at Vanderbilt Divinity School; Director of the Tennessee Conference Council on Ministries for the United Methodist Church; a Lecturer in Evangelism at Scarritt College; District Superintendent for the Nashville-Franklin District of the Tennessee Conference for the United Methodist Church; President of the Tennessee Caucus of Black Methodists for Church Renewal; Pastor of Clark Memorial United Methodist Church; and President of the Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, previously active in North Carolina, Dr. Corry has served as College Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Bennett College in Greensboro; Pastor of St. Matthews Methodist Church in Greensboro; and Pastor of St. Johns Methodist Church in Leaksville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corry has astutely served the United Methodist Church as President of the Local, Jurisdictional, and National Chapters of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. He has also expertly represented the Church as a Delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference four times and as a Delegate to the General Conference; and

WHEREAS, his present responsibilities include serving as a member and Vice President of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of the United Methodist Church; a member of the Tennessee Conference's Standing Rules Committee and the Tennessee Conference Commission of Religion and Race; Parliamentarian of the Tennessee Conference; a member of the Tennessee Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; and Chair of the Division of Elders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corry is licensed to practice law in the State of Tennessee and has served as President-elect of the Napier-Looby Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, along with these impressive accomplishments, Dr. Corry has authored nine publications, including a piece entitled "How BMCR Has Helped United Methodists Move Toward Renewal," which is included in a compilation book titled, *Our Time Under God is Now*; and

WHEREAS, this hard-working and dedicated pastor and professional has received many honors, including membership in Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society, Phi Kappa Alpha National Humanities Honor Society, and an honorary membership to the Golden Key Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Corry is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate man of the cloth, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend; and

WHEREAS, all accomplishments aside, Dr. Corry is deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is thankful for the loving companionship he shares with his wife, Shirley Fitzgerald Corry and his two sons John G. Corry, Jr. and Joel Clinton Corry and his step-son Christopher M. Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John G. Corry is wholly committed to the noble precepts that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State" and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Dr. John G. Corry upon being honored at the John G. Corry Scholarship Awards Banquet, commend him for

his many years of devoted service to his congregation and his community, and extend to him our best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.